

This resolution goes too far because it directs schools and teachers to use a specific educational technique. I'm going to vote against this resolution because Congress should not be dictating a school's curriculum from Washington.

The Federal Government's role is to support the people who educate our kids, not to tell them how to teach reading. We should stick to the things that we can do. We must resist the temptation to meddle in places where we have no business. That takes humility and a measure of wisdom, but I am confident that together we can find the strength to do the right things for our students.

#### TRIBUTE TO KLAMATH COUNTY COURTHOUSE

#### HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the dedication of the new Klamath County Courthouse in the City of Klamath Falls, Oregon. The dedication of this building is much more than a celebration of an assemblage of bricks and mortar, it is a celebration of people who would not quit and who would not accept anything less than the best for their community.

In 1993 the historic courthouse was rendered useless by two earthquakes less than three months apart. Within a week after the second quake, all of the employees were moved to a variety of venues and the work of the county and the justice system went forward with great difficulty. People literally didn't know how to determine where court was being held or where building permits were being issued.

With no funds and no plans, the leaders and citizens of Klamath County rolled up their sleeves and got to work. In 1996 the Klamath County voters passed a bond issue to rebuild the courthouse and build the Government Center that opened in 1998. With the assistance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Klamath County was able to repay \$1.7 million worth of bonds.

The journey of quickly moving out of the destroyed structure to a variety of temporary quarters to the new courthouse was a long and arduous one. It goes without saying that the system kept working only because of the dedication of employees of the county and the justice system and the elected officials who would not be deterred from their mission.

Today three hard working county commissioners, Steve West, Bill Garrard, and Al Switzer are justifiably proud of the new courthouse, which features many new innovations such as video arraignment and video hearings. The architecture of the building is remarkable in its aesthetic appeal. It is an impressive modern structure that remains loyal to its historic roots and the spirit of this resourceful western city. With grace and dignity, the Klamath County Courthouse declares that this is a community with high standards.

As the house of justice in Klamath County, the courthouse has been dedicated to those

who have paid a very dear price to preserve our system of laws and freedom, our veterans and fallen police officers.

Proudly flying in the courthouse square are the illuminated flags of each branch of the military as well as the POW/MIA flag. Seeing these flags flying brightly in the clear Klamath County breeze is an inspiration.

A special area is dedicated to the memory of fallen law enforcement officers who have given their lives in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker, my enthusiasm for what Klamath County has achieved must be tempered with the sobering thought that the death of these fallen officers is a grim reminder that the price of justice and security is often very dear. To honor those fallen heroes, I would like to pause for a moment and ask that they each be remembered in a special way.

John E. Lambert, Oregon State Police; Ernest M. Brown, Lakeview Police Department; David R. Sanchez, Lake County Sheriff's Office; Richard C. Swan, Jr., Klamath Falls Police Department; Bret R. Clodfelter, Oregon State Police; Scott A. Lyons, Oregon State Police; and James D. Rector, Oregon State Police.

The citizens of Klamath County will not forget the ultimate sacrifice offered by these fallen officers and neither should any of us in this revered body. It is truly fitting that the seat of justice in Klamath County proclaims every day that justice, freedom, and security are not to be taken for granted.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I salute the leaders and residents of Klamath County whose efforts to make this courthouse a reality have borne such remarkable fruit. This building will stand for a long time as a testimony to the rock-solid, iron-willed resolve of one of the great communities of the West. I am proud of what the citizens of Klamath County have accomplished and proud to have the honor of serving them in Congress.

#### NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring a very special anniversary to the attention of my colleagues. This Saturday, November 13, marks the 59th anniversary of the founding of the National Federation of the Blind. An historic plaque will be placed at the original meeting place in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania on Saturday afternoon, and I am proud to have been asked to participate in this historic celebration.

In November of 1940, the first nationwide self-advisory group of persons with disabilities was founded at a meeting in the Reddington Hotel in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. At that time, the future for most blind people was bleak and employment often meant sheltered workshops for pennies an hour. With few educational opportunities available, the blind came together to organize. Elected to lead the fledgling group was Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, a young blind lawyer who would go on to become a

prominent professor of constitutional law. This small group of people dedicated to the advancement of those with disabilities began a trend of advocacy for all people with physical and mental challenges.

Mr. Speaker, today the National Federation of the Blind is the largest organization of its kind in America. Every state has a chapter, as do many communities across the nation. Several thousand activists attend the Federation's annual national convention. The Federation provides scholarships, discrimination assistance, newsletters, and legislative consultation. It supports and assists in the development of new technology to improve the lives of the visually impaired. The Federation champions civil rights for the blind and often intercedes when parents face interference from social service agencies who attempt to remove their children from their homes. Currently, the Federation is attempting to establish sound case law regarding custody rights of visually impaired parents.

Today, the blind are employed in every profession there is, from the law to medicine. The National Federation of the Blind should take great pride in the extraordinary progress it has helped bring about since that day in November of 1940 when the founders gathered together for the first time. I am pleased to join with the citizens in Northeastern Pennsylvania and across the nation in congratulating the National Federation of the Blind and its local chapters as members gather at the organization's birthplace in my district in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania to celebrate this historic event.

#### TRIBUTE TO SAM T. GIBSON

#### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize Sam T. Gibson, former Director of the National Blood Bank for the Red Cross, who recently passed away.

Dr. Gibson joined the Red Cross in 1949, following research at Harvard Medical School. He worked in the blood program of the Red Cross for 18 years and taught at George Washington University medical school and the Uniformed Services University. Dr. Gibson directed the national blood bank program of the American Red Cross and retired from a research post at the FDA in 1988.

Prior to his work at the FDA, Dr. Gibson was a biological official at the National Institute of Health where he retired as director of science and technology in the Office of Health Affairs.

Dr. Gibson was an asset to all of those he served who will be greatly missed by those who were under his care.